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LOUIS AZRAEL SAYS:

When Is a Person Really

Dead?

From members of the informal, volunteer corps which serves as "The Other CIA" (Columnist's Information Aides) come these reports...

ABOUT DEATH

The Maryland Legislature that meets next January will be asked to answer: when is a person dead.

It will also be asked to forbid transplanting body organs until the prospective donor is legally dead.

The legislation will be proposed by Wallace E. Hutton, a Frederick lawyer who is a member of the House of Delegates. He thought of it after several clients discussed their wills. They wanted to permit transplant of some of their organs — but they had qualms. Might not some surgeons, eager to save another life, act before death is certain, they queried.

Hutton got expert advice and drew a bill which sets up two definitions of death.

One is that a patient's respiratory and heart functions have stopped so long that doctors feel attempts at resuscitation are hopeless. The other is that spontaneous brain function has stopped so long (though brain and lung functions may be artificially maintained) that doctors are convinced it cannot be restored.

And Hutton's bill specifies, "Death is to be pronounced before artificial means of supporting respiratory and circulatory function are terminated and before any vital organ is removed for transplantation."

ABOUT TRAVEL

Another legislator — Delegate Charles S. Blumenthal of Prince George's County — will urge that the State should buy and operate an airplane for the Governor, members of the Executive Department and members of the Legislature.

Two full-time pilots would pilot the craft and, apparently anticipating shenanigans, the bill provides that, "Any official who uses the aircraft for other than official business shall compensate the State Aviation Administrator for the total expenses incurred."

ABOUT MINI-BIKES

Some parents who buy their children mini-bikes or other motorized play vehicles for Christmas may be deeply disappointed if they aren't careful. (And the kids may be more so.)

Maryland law doesn't consider such vehicles to be merely toys. They may not be used on streets or

highways, or even at shopping centers or public parking lots, by anyone who isn't a licensed driver. And the vehicles must be registered with the Motor Vehicles Commission. Furthermore, they won't be registered unless they carry articles of equipment which are not standard on all motorized "play vehicles" in stores.

ABOUT PUBLICITY

A Baltimore event will soon get a lot of publicity in Russia.

"Izvestia," one of Russia's two leading newspapers (the word means "news") will soon print a series of articles about the Milton Eisenhower Symposium which ended yesterday at Johns Hopkins University.

They are being written by Vikenty Matveyev, a Russian editor who spoke there — and was so impressed that he later brought a bottle of vodka to Hopkins students Nelson Block and Abram Kransberg, co-ordinators of the symposium.

ABOUT LAWMAKERS

The first big fight in the new City Council will come as soon (perhaps even before) its members are sworn in next month. The issue will be: who shall be the Vice-president. Councilmen Joseph Curran, Reuben Caplan and Alex Stark want the job.

This raises another interesting question. Will the issue be openly debated on the Council floor — or will the public vote be merely formal affirmation of a decision reached at hush-hush private meetings?